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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 6879.0004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Yukio Watanabe et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1722  
)  
Serial No.: 10/019,658 ) Examiner: BRUENJES, Christopher P.  
)  
Filed: January 2, 2002 )  
)  
For: HARDNESS TAPER TUBE AND )  
PRODUCTION METHOD AND )  
DEVICE THEREFOR )  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In a restriction requirement dated July 21, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I, claim 1; Group II, claim 2; and Group III, claims 3-4. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group III, claims 3-4 drawn to an apparatus for making tubing.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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Dated: August 27, 2003

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